

EDITORIAL PAGE

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"Going My Way?"



EVENING OBSERVER'S PROGRESS PROGRAM
IRRIGATION—Complete the Grande Ronde Valley irrigation project.
LA GRANDE — A city of 10,000 — Extend the city limits.

The People's Mandate

The senate's ratification of the united nations charter seemed to us even more significant and momentous than the drafting of the charter itself. Everyone knew that a charter would come out of San Francisco. No one knew when, by what majority, or after what subterfuge the senate would approve it.

The senate's debate and decision reflected the temper of the people who elected its membership. Some, outspokenly opposed to the whole idea, were not returned to Washington after last November's elections. Senators Shipstead and Langer, who voted against ratification, were not candidates in 1944. Other senators, perhaps fearful of the consequences, voted for the charter after making their objections known.

Thus the dying prediction of Woodrow Wilson, recently revealed by his daughter, Mrs. Eleanor McAdoo, is half fulfilled. Wilson said, in substance, that only when the American people really wanted a league of nations would they join one, and that only then would such a league succeed.

The success of the new league is still to be proved. But the American people's desire for it was unmistakable. There were differences of popular opinion,

of course. And these shades of opinion were brought out in the senate debate on the charter — debate marked by urgent action, lofty hopes, tempered consideration, honest doubts and cynical defeatism.

The speed of ratification was gratifying. This country's government had been the prime force behind the new world organization. It was in this country that the first international discussion of the organization took place, and where a world congress drafted its covenant. It was fitting that the United States should also be the first great power to approve the present results of the world's new effort toward peace.

Not even the charter's best friends, in or out of the senate, have said that the document is perfect. Obviously it isn't. But after some of the too optimistic promises of the first league's American supporters 25 years ago, the present sanity is welcome.

No gardener would plant a crop in the ground and then ignore it, blindly trusting God that it would yield a perfect harvest. And no thinking person today can believe that the seed of the united nations organization will not require solicitous care against adverse weather, weeds, disease and various predatory forms of animal life.

There is much to do. But at least the crop is in and this country has signified its willingness to tend it. Disappointment and discouragement are surely ahead. Yet we know that at last a real start has been made toward the golden harvest of peace, without which the world world cannot survive.

Washington Merry-Go-Round

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Ever since Franklin Roosevelt died, some of his most ardent senate followers have talked about organizing to carry on his left-center program. Finally, encouraged by the British elections and worried over what would happen to our domestic economy if the war ended overnight, 17 Democrat senators gathered at a private luncheon last week.

Practically every senator present was a personal friend and booster of President Truman. Yet behind their luncheon was a veiled threat if Truman became too much influenced by the reactionary wing of the Democrat party, he would have trouble.

The luncheon was called by Senators Pepper of Florida and Kilgore of West Virginia. They brought with them a mimeographed five-page document labeled "full employment—objective of domestic policy." In this carefully written document, they proceeded to point out that:

"American economy has never provided stable full employment under modern conditions of high labor productivity and mass production. A review of economic conditions between world war I and world war II makes this clear. . . . In 1939, though we reached the production level of 1929, there were 7,000,000 more unemployed.

"There are some of short memory," the survey continued, "who today urge on the federal government a 'do nothing' policy toward insuring full employment. . . . We believe extensive federal action is essential at this time."

12-Point Program

The "federal action" proposed by Senators Kilgore and Pepper was outlined to the other 15 senators immediately after the luncheon in the form of a 12-point program.

"I am tired," said the West Virginia senator, "of seeing the opposition use us as a chopping block. The time has come for some action—and now."

Each senator then discussed the program. The comment was deadly serious, most of

them worried over what will happen in our economy after the war.

If Jap War Ends Suddenly

One of the most interesting interchanges took place between Maryland's Senator Radcliffe and Connecticut's Senator Brien McMahon. Radcliffe expressed general approval of the program but added he knows of no unemployment problem in the nation. Whereupon, McMahon interrupted to say that there was a growing unemployment problem in Connecticut.

"We're in for a bad time if the war in the Pacific should end during the summer, before adequate legislation has been passed to provide for additional employment," McMahon continued.

"It seems to me," he added, "the administration is on the horns of a dilemma. If we don't spend to provide employment, we'll be in a bad way; if we do spend, our huge public debt will continue to pile up."

"There is no problem there," interposed Rhode Island's agile 77-year-old Senator Green, himself a millionaire. "There is only one course. If we do have a high level of employment and general well-being among the people of the country, then we are headed for bankruptcy anyhow."

Army-Navy Hog-Piling

New York's Senator Mead, who succeeded Truman as chairman of the senate war investigating committee, remarked:

"It's about time this country began to shift from a two-war economy to a one-war economy. The army and navy have got to stop sitting on billions of dollars' worth of materials they don't need and which industry does need."

"Not only materials," continued Mead. "They've got to release manpower we need in the coal mines, the steel mills, the railroads. We can't keep our civilian economy going. . . . At least the army and navy can release 100,000 key men for these industries. We've got to speed up for the reconversion process."

WE, THE WOMEN

By RUTH MILLETT

Perhaps she just has a smarter press agent than the rest of the Hollywood stars. But Anne Baxter has crashed through with a sound idea. She has asked Gen. Omar Bradley to book her ahead for one tour a year for 10 years after V-day to entertain wounded veterans.

It is a rewarding project for entertainers to sing or dance for servicemen today. It gives them more and better publicity than they can get in any other way.

But it will be a different thing in five or 10 years. Nobody much will hear of the performers who entertain the servicemen who are shut off from the world in veterans' hospitals. That won't be big news. So any star who is making plans now for the future entertainment of servicemen ought to be encouraged.

And what about the rest of us? Shouldn't we be thinking of what we will do as individuals and as communities for the servicemen who will be in hospitals for years, or even for the rest of their lives?

Now is the time to make our pledges. The sick and wounded servicemen of the last year were pretty much forgotten by all but members of their families. That shouldn't happen again. Somehow we should hang on to the feeling we now have for the servicemen who are being carried from hospital ships.

Right now we know how much we owe them, how awed we are by the sacrifices they have made for us. And while we know, we ought to make some vows that they won't be forgotten when the war is over and the lucky ones among us are picking up our lives and going on with them.

What we don't decide to do now we will probably never do. For it is so easy to forget.

Behind Scenes in Washington

By PETER EDSON, La Grande Evening Observer Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Banker John W. Snyder of St. Louis, the new assistant president in charge of the home front, has just had a needle stuck into his backside, right up to the eye—of the needle. So far he hasn't said much and probably won't. He has a reputation for being tough skinned and able to take it.

The hypodermic applied to Snyder through the needle was the fourth annual report of Senator James M. Mead's war investigating committee. The report found that "reconversion has not proceeded as swiftly as it should have," and that "the office of war mobilization and reconversion, acting too often as a conciliator rather than an executive, fails to fill the need."

The job wasn't aimed primarily or personally at Snyder but at the two gents who have preceded him in office, Justice James F. Byrnes who is now secretary of state, and Judge Fred M. Vinson who is now secretary of the treasury.

Kicking this job around so that three men have held it in the last four months has obviously done the country no good. Also it is always a healthy thing for a senate committee to stir up the authorities and keep them awake to their responsibilities. At the same time it is dirty politics to belabor a new official for the sins of omission of his predecessors. And the Mead report may be a bad thing if it leads the public into believing it will be easy for U. S. industry to get immediately back on the job of making all the things civilians need in a hurry.

End of the war in Europe was just a starter. Unless the war against Japan folds faster than anyone now thinks possible, a year after V-E day the army will still number seven million and the navy four million. Peak strength of the two was a little over 12 million. With only a 10 percent net reduction in the strength of the armed forces, there can't be much cut-back in military production, one of the things the Mead report complains about.

As of Aug. 1, military production has been cut back 15 percent. It will be cut back 25 percent by September and 33 percent by the end of 1945.

Yet even with a third of the military production stopped, there aren't going to be enough raw materials to supply all the civil-

ian requirements. Just maintaining an army and navy of 11 million for the war against Japan takes nearly all the steel, textiles, copper, lumber and rubber available, plus sizeable quantities of coal, oil, food, can't be much reconversion while that goes on.

Mr. Snyder's needling is inconsistent in other respects. Complaint is made that government owned war plants haven't been released for civilian production fast enough. Yet the policy has been to keep government plants going on war production so that privately-owned plants could be freed for reconversion.

Complaints is made that surpluses have not been declared fast enough. How can surpluses be declared till the war is over?

The army is criticized for slow release of its great reservoir of manpower, thus retarding industry's reconversion. On the next page is a pious declaration that the FIR's responsibility is to win the war and "for that reason there should be no diversion of production capacity or manpower."

Finally the office of war mobilization is criticized because it has been too much of a policy and conciliation organization and not enough of a direct operating agency.

That's one OWM director Snyder may puzzle over. He has been on this new big job of his for only two weeks, and if he doesn't know what it's all about neither does anyone else. He doesn't have a full organization. He must name two top deputies to replace J. B. Hutson who became assistant secretary of agriculture and Donald Russell who will join his old boss Justice Byrnes in the department of state. Then Snyder must perfect his organization and decide how he wants it to function.

In his previous job, as federal loan administrator succeeding Jesse Jones, Snyder showed a flair for simplification of organization by consolidating a lot of subsidiary corporations into the parent reconstruction finance corporation. He can go that way on OWMR keeping his staff down to about 25 technical experts on food, manpower, production and so on—a tight little organization to make policy and run the works from the top. Or he can start to build up another big government agency with thousands of employees, in the traditional Washington bureaucratic method. How would the Mead committee like that?

Side Glances



"My goodness! It's time to be thinking about a new fur coat—that old one of mine will never stand another winter!"

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

America's Card Authority

AWAITING OPPONENT ERRORS WINS HAND

You are not always going to get into a perfect contract. When you do get into a bad one, keep your wits about you and give the opponents a chance to make a mistake. Wars are won that way—so are bridge contracts.

North's opening two-diamond bid was a little optimistic, especially since both his suits were minors. The three-heart response is an ace-showing convention.

With the king of hearts opening, the declarer's contract seemed unquestionably doomed to defeat. However, after winning the first trick, North did not make the mistake of leading a spade and hoping the opponents would not return a heart. He immediately cashed the ace and king of clubs, and realized that there

were four clubs in one hand against him. He led the king of diamonds then quickly pushed out the ten of clubs. Sure enough, East made the mistake of cover-

♠ A 8 7 5 4	♠ K	♠ J 2	
♥ 6 5 3	♥ A K Q J 8	♥ K Q 8 7	
♦ 6 3	♦ A K 10 8 4	♦ 4	
♣ Q 5	♣ Dealer	♣ 10 9	
		♣ J 6 3 2	
		♣ Q 10 9 6	
		♣ A J 9	
		♣ 7 5 4 2	
		♣ 9 7	
		♣ Duplicate—Neither vul.	
South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	3♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	6♣	Pass
		Opening—♥K	

ing, and declarer ruffed with the seven of diamonds, not one of the smaller ones. West could not over-ruff. Declarer returned to his hand with a diamond, cashed the eight and four of clubs, discarded the two hearts, and ruffed his losing heart.

IN FORMER YEARS

Thirty Years Ago

Chiffon hats in autumn colors, yellow, purple, red and brown are being featured this season. The postoffice department has sent out an order forbidding stamp sellers to place the stamp maulage side down on the counter when pushing stamps through to customers.

Fifteen Years Ago

Surveying of the road from Owsley land to the summit of Mt. Emily is to be done during part of this month and during September, previous to the making of a lane through the trees and burning and piling the brush.

The new gymnasium at Cove is rapidly nearing completion, with shingles and paint being put on now.

Ten Years Ago

Funds donated for the Amos Helm first aid car have reached the \$876.25 mark.

Plans are being made for a doll show, with prizes to be given for the largest, oldest, smallest, homeliest, most beautiful, and best dressed dolls.

This Curious World



Quoting Odds

"IT'S HARD GOING IN SOFT SAND," SAID CASEY LEWARSKI, Milwaukee, Wisconsin



SOME OF THE MOST COMMON: LADY'S SLIPPER, ORCHIS, ROBINIA GRASS PINK, CORAL ROOT, RATTLESNAKE PLANTAIN AND TWIGLEAF.

NEXT: That heavy air before a storm.

Funny Business



"Corporal, I think your enthusiasm is running away with you!"

SO THEY SAY

These people (Germans) may not look so bad compared with other Europeans. But, brother, the girls and children back home have it all over them like a tent. —Ella Logan, entertainer.

MEAT HUNGRY Americans may be surprised to know that in the midst of the (meat) shortage, there are more cattle on U. S. ranches today than in any previous year. —Virginia, Minn. Mesabi News.

The Franco government (in Spain) is clearly Fascist. It's a closed oligarchy with none of the civil liberties that are the essence of our democracy. —Sen J. H. Ball of Minnesota.

Buying bonds is one way to prove to the boys and girls in the Armed Forces that we are back of them. Another way is to refuse to patronize black markets of any kind. —Altoona, Pa. Mirror.

in my life: